Henry and Minerva.

A

POEM.

By J. B. Esq;

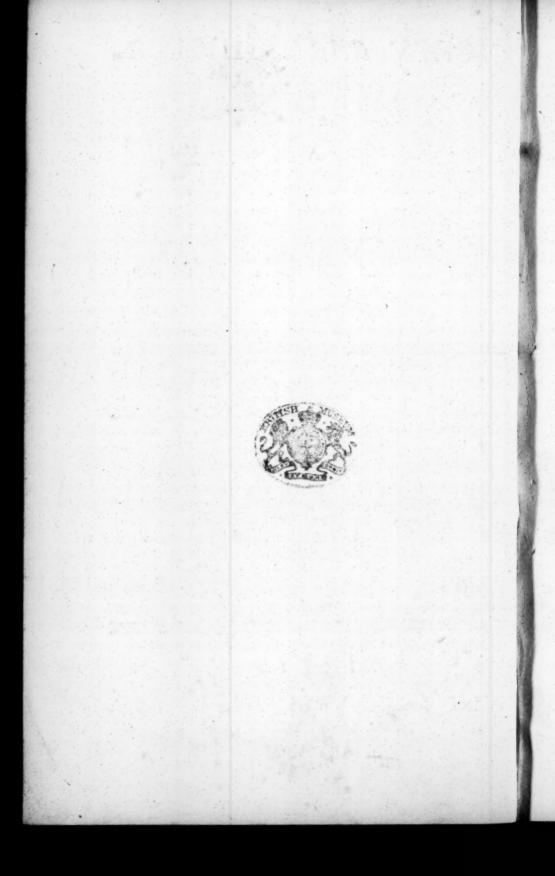
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THE

PREFACE.



HE Subject of the following Poem (or rather Sketch of one) runs wholly upon the Introduction of Polite Learning

among us; a natural Consequence of the Downfall of Superstition under Henry VIII. who is the Hero of it. The Reader will see 'tis of the allegorical kind, form'd in some measure, upon the great Models of Spencer

PREFACE.

Spencer and Chaucer; the Descriptions and Episodes being interspers'd with Historical Facts, as well as with Fables; which last are borrowed either from the Heathen Mythology, or our own Legendary Accounts of Antient Britain. However the Author may have acquitted himself in other Respects, he has been pretty exact, at least, with Regard to Chronology and Geography; and has fix'd his Time of Action to the properest Age for the Purpose in Hand, viz. the Beginning of the Sixteenth Century, when King Harry was in his Prime; when all Italy was involv'd in War; and Arts and Sciences (so lately restor'd on t'other Side the Alps) were once more in a ruinous State, through the Misfortunes of the House of Medici, to which they had ow'd their Re-establishment.

PREFACE.

He has made the Triumph of P. Æmilius, in Canto I. the Epoch of Minerva's Empire in Rome, (though the Grecian Arts had been partly introduc'd there already by preceding Victories) as being a Circumstance that has not its Equal in History, on the Account of a Spectacle which Writers of those Times set forth with so much Solemnity.

In placing Minerva's Temple upon the Arno, Travellers will easily judge he had an Eye to the famous Florentine Gallery; and as many inestimable Rarities of the same Collection were dispers'd (not to reckon several others wholly lost) during those Intestine Divisions, (which were happily ended by the Accommodation between Charles V. and Pope Clement VIII.) that Havock has given Occasion to the Fable at the End of the same Canto.

Glastonbury

PREFACE.

Glastonbury (renown'd for its Abbey) is chosen to be the Scene of Canto IV. where the Palace of Superstition is describ'd (as that was the Loreto of England in those Days, because of the pretended Mission of Joseph of Arimathea;) and so far is thought necessary to be premised. The Notes will illustrate other Passages, that may not be obvious to every Understanding.





Henry and Minerva.

A

POEM.

CANTO I.



EAUFORT, great Heir of that distin[guish'd Blood,
Which from Gaunt's Veins derives its
[purple Flood:
On whose young Brow the Ducal
[Leaves are fixt,

With Sprigs of Attic Olive intermixt:

If not unpleas'd thy Eyes have e'er survey'd Rome's hoary Piles, and Tibur's Sacred Shade,

If

If Grecian Treasures anxious thou hast sought,
And sollow'd Arundel's great Track in Thought;
O give this humble Muse to creep beneath
That sumptuous Roof where marble Casars
[breathe,
Where Guido's Oils, and Michel's Groupes are
[seen,
Nor scorn the Labours of the blue-ey'd Queen.

Where Po divides the fruitful Lombard Vale,

(Imperial Po, renown'd in antient Tale)

Mature of Years, an Amazonian Form

Lean'd on a Turf with scalding Tears grown warm;

Her yellow Hair abandon'd to the Wind,

(Unjust Neglect!) betray'd her tortur'd Mind;

Beside her lay a Morion stain'd with Gore,

Whose plumy Honours graceful wav'd no more,

(Remainder sad of a disputed Field!)

With half a Spear, and what was once a Shield.

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All coopt in Steel, along th' enamel'd Mead A Martial Youth prickt on his fiery Steed; His God-like Eyes shone awfully serene, And Sway was flampt on his majestick Mien: An hundred Toils atchiev'd in Ages past (Flame-temper'dWork!) his Target's Circle grac'd: Crown'd was his Helm, his Streamer fnowy white Display'd the Cross which Britons wave in Fight Lions with Fleurdelis alternate rais'd In Gold, upon his Kingly Armour blaz'd: A Scarf he wore with am'rous Emblem wrought, And look'd as one who fair Adventure fought. Was never fung in Ariofto's Lays, A Knight fo form'd to deck his Brows with Bays.

It chanc'd, as bounding o'er the Plain he past, Full on the Dame his Eagle's View he cast; He ftopp'd, he 'lit; and with fubmiffive Air Advanc'd to learn the Spring of her Despair; Then thus--- O more than mortal Nymph, he faid, Plung'd in deep Sorrows on the Earth's cold Bed; Since Beauty wrong'd from Knights demands Relief, Into my Ear pour out thy hidden Grief; For by this Sacred Mystick Badge, and Star That shines conspicuous on my Breast, I swear Against thy Peace tho' all Cocytus Arm, And ev'ry Stygian Hag conspire a Charm; So to my Soul may Heav'n its Mercy show, As I'll thy Champion prove, and right thee from [thy Foe.

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As when to Southern Blasts the Zephyr's Breeze Instant succeeds, and calms the russed Seas; So sudden on the Fair-one's anxious Thought The unknown Paladin's soft Accents wrought; Wak'd from her Lethargy of Care, she rais'd Her awful Brow, her throbbing Heart appeas'd; Silent awhile admir'd the Stranger's Worth, And, smiling heav'nly, thus at last broke forth.

Know, courteous Knight, by Poets not unfung,

Minerva stil'd, from Jove himself I sprung;

Child of his Brain, as Citherea fair,

Learning and Arms I made my Virgin Care.

By me on Fame's recording Page enroll'd

Phidias and Zeuxis stand in deathless Gold:

Mine

Mine are the sumptuous Fane, th' aëreal Dome,
The sprightly Canvas, and the glowing Loom;
The martial Attitude, th'alluring Form,
Nerves strung for Fight, and Graces made to warm.
I measure Time and Space (Chaldean Lore!)
And guide the Pilot by the Magnet's Pow'r;
I gave Columbus latent Worlds to know,
And taught my Tully's Silver Tongue to flow.

First, where the Nile, and where Euphrates run,
The early Structure of my Fame begun;
Grave Zoroaster * here my Laws explain'd,
There swarthy Iss † my Vicegerent reign'd;

^{*} He was King of Baëtria, suppos'd a Magician, and Inventor of Astronomy and Astrology, which Sciences were brought afterwards from Assyria to Greece, by Berosus.

⁺ Daughter of Jupiter, and Wife to Osiris, Goddess and Queen of the Egyptians. The Mythology is full of her Inventions and Discoveries in Arts and Sciences.

By her, fair Sculpture dawn'd, and Building rose,
And Pencils learn'd their Graces to disclose.

By him was trac'd how Planetary Spheres
Round unseen Axles roll in Months and Years;
How Orbs of Light run o'er th' allotted Race,
And shed their mystick Pow'r on Nature's Face.

Their various Labours at one Center met,
Knowledge to raise, and make their Parent great;
The Spark of Learning kindled into Flame,
And Envy sicken'd at Minerva's Name.

When Gods forfook their old Olympian Seats,
And Groves and Cities gave them new Retreats;
Juno to Argos came, and Mars to Thrace,
His Delian Realms Apollo chose to grace:
I fix'd in Athens; and on Greece bestow'd
Each Art and Science from that lov'd Abode;

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Thence

Thence by Degrees my dawning Empire stretch'd Far as young Ammon or Alcides reach'd.

But the rough Roman, arm'd in Glory's Caufe, Within his Embrio State despis'd my Laws; His Martial Soul, fir'd with Renown alone, Of Sway impatient, grafp'd at Worlds unknown; Stretch'd out its Views beyond the Polar Star, And fcorn'd as Luxury, what was not War. Beneath his narrow parfimonious Shed, The rude Patrician's frugal Board was spread; The Circus was a Bank, the rustick Scene Amus'd the gaping Many on the Green: Altars of Turf in wooden Temples stood, And Spoils of Nations hung from Walls of Mud: In Cottages Dictators took their Birth, And dead, unnoted slept in Urns of Earth.

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At length, behold, Emilius * comes; O Name
To Art for ever Sacred, as to Fame!
His panting Steeds scarce pass Rome's crowded Gate,
While scepter'd Captives on his Triumph wait.
An hundred Chariots fill'd with Pella's † Spoils
Of Grecian Lore display the noblest Toils:
The Wealth of Macedon's and Asia's Shores;
Persean Treasures, and Attalic Stores §.

Old Tiber then, with unknown Warmth inspir'd, Saw my bright Form, and as he saw, was fir'd:

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^{*} He overcame Perseus, and put an End to the Macedonian Monarchy.

⁺ The Capital of Macedon, from whence Alexander is call'd by Juvenal, Pellaus Juvenis.

[§] From Attalus King of Pergamus and Asia, famous for his immense Wealth; whence Horace, Attalicis Conditionibus: the Kings of Macedon, having been Masters of the East, abounded with Asiatic Treasures.

From that great Hour my Heighth of Pride began,
From that the Years in fairer Order ran.
I rais'd his Palaces, and call'd his Gods
To Parian Thresholds from their thatch'd Abodes;
Bad Arts in one firm Bond unite with Arms,
And temper'd Roman Fire with Attic Charms.

Thus while my Olive's envy'd Wreath I wore,
A thousand Suns their annual Race went o'er;
A thousand Worthies in that Age of Light
Rose up Supporters of Minerva's Right:
I showr'd my Blessings on the Julian Line,
Brought up my Trajan, and my Antonine;
And built within my Thought, (oh Prospect vain!)
The slatt'ring Fabrick of an endless Reign:
But Fate had there my Empire's Period set,
And ev'n Immortals must to Fate submit.

Thicker

Thicker than wafted by the vernal Breeze
Extend o'er Hybla's Top the clustring Bees,
The Polar Bear from Her abundant Womb
Pour'd forth the Bane * of Learning, and of Rome,
The Alps in vain their vast Barrier oppose,
Swarms rise on Swarms, and Foes succeed to Foes:
I saw their armed Wains, and harness'd Steeds
O'erspread the Sabine Fields, and Tuscan Meads;
I heard their savage Horns † provoke the War,
While human Victims bled to horrid Thor §.

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^{*} The Northern Hive, under different Denominations, had often unfuccessfully attempted the Overthrow of the Roman Empire in t e West, as in the Times of Caius Marius, the Antonines, Amilian, Claudius Gothicus, and others; they almost effected it by the Deseat of Trajan Decius, and the scandalous Composition of Trebonianus his Successor: but the first of their entering the Walls of Rome was in the Reign of Honorius, under their King Alaric; these were the Visigoths.

⁺ The Horn was the Martial Instrument of most of the Northern Nations, and is yet us'd in War by some of the Swiss Cantons; particularly that of Uri.

[§] Thor, the Jupiter of the Saxons, or Teutons; from whom Thursday.

As weeping Rome the Rout accurs'd receiv'd,
Old Tiber figh'd, and all Olympus griev'd;
Great Mars bemoan'd his City's Funeral,
And Jove indignant faw his *Temples fall:
What Nero's Madness spar'd, the raging Goth
Destroys, and Ignorance adds Force to Wrath.

Oh! matchles Palatine; Imperial Frame!

Can I unmov'd thy setting Glories name;

Or say what Flames round that proud Mansion [curl'd, Whence the long Line of Cæsars aw'd the World?

Lo! where the Coward Eagles wing their Way,

And Stilico † (false Traitor!) shuns the Fray;

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^{*} This is a Poetical Liberty; for when this happen'd Christianity had been for many Reigns establish'd in Rome; so that Jupiter's Concern here is not for his Worship, (long abolish'd) but for the Structures of his Temples; of some of which there are yet such magnificent Vestiges.

⁺ Stilico was Father-in-Law and General to Honorius (V. Claudian) of Gothick Extraction himself, and with great Reason suspected of Treachery in that Affair.

No new Camillus dares abide the Shock,
No Saviour Manlius guards the facred Rock.

As fome huge Lion, (Monarch of the Wild,)
His Fangs impair'd by Age, his Vigour foil'd;
Helpless within his Den is seen to mourn
Beneath the dastard Wolf's insulting Spurn:
So Rome, late Queen of Asia's utmost Shores,
Trampled by Alaric, her Fate deplores;
Of Heros past invokes th' Elysian Bands,
And to Tarpeian Jove extends her Hands;
Deaf to her Cry is Jove; are deaf the Manes;
And one dire Waste along her Tiber reigns.

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Forc'd from my known Abode, despis'd, forlorn, I rang'd the Ball, my savage Victor's Scorn; A fecond Shelter fought from East to West,
But Goths or * Monks the spacious Round posses'd.
Here Ignorance in Steel was arm'd, and there,
Cloath'd in a Cowl, dissembled Fast and Pray'r;
Against my Sway her pious Hand stretch'd out,
And fenc'd with double Fogs her Idiot Rout.

Near th' Euxine's fable Wave at length I fate
Where Pontick Cæsars held their Eastern State †;
Again a Goddess and a Queen was own'd,
In a new Athens by new Greeks enthron'd:

^{*} The Papal Authority was already in great Vogue at that Time, and confequently Monks very numerous.

⁺ Constantinople produc'd many Learned Men, and several of the Eastern Emperors were great Encouragers of Arts and Sciences: They amassed infinite Manuscripts, the undestroy'd Part of which, either remain there to this Day, or were purchas'd by the Medici Family, after the taking of that City by Mahomet II. at which Time Lascaris, Chalcondilas, Bessarion, and other illustrious Greeks, took Sanctuary in Italy.

Thence too (from Mecca's Skylong-threaten'dPest)
Me and my Sons th' Impostor Prophet chac'd.

But lo! on fair Ausonia's Soil once more

New Stars their Influence shed, new Blessings pour!

The Cloud of Ages broke, for Light makes Way,

And darkling Knowledge greets Return of Day:

Two of an House * my long-forgotten Name

Raise up unhop'd; and blot away my Shame.

Hail, Queen of Cities, learned Florence, hail;
I see thee, beauteous on thy Tuscan Vale,
Of thy great Medici the Worth unfold,
And rise what Rome and Athens were of old?

[§] Mahomet, born at Mecca in Arabia, where the Turks go in Pilgrimage to visit his Tomb.

^{*} Laurence of Medici, and his Son Julius (afterwards Pope Leo X.) the greatest Patrons of Learning in Italy, since the Decline of the Roman Empire. They flourish'd about the End of the XVth and Beginning of the XVIth Century.

Where lofty Apennine exalts his Head,
And loft in Clouds o'erlooks the Arno's Bed;
In a dark Grove untrod by human Feet,
I built for Arts and Me a last Retreat.

Corinthian Work, with rich Mosaic bright
The Dome upon the Shade reslected Light;
The Walls with high Relievos were emboss'd,
And in the various Fresques the Eye was lost:
Bold were the Touches, as the Colours warm,
At once contriv'd to please and to inform.

Here might be seen how Painting's Dawn was

[found,
And Forms by Crooks were sketch'd upon the

[Ground;
How Infant Sculpture cut out Gods of Oak,

And Oracles from Beach and Maple spoke;

There

There plastick Art on Stone ap'd Nature's Face. Or call'd out Animals from fufil Brass: Egypt's rich Veins their Porphyrys disclos'd, Granites were wrought, and Stuccos were compos'd; Huge Fabricks rear'd their Adamantine Frames, And Fame immortaliz'd the Builder's Names. The Carian * Queen, to Love and Virtue just, Lavish'd whole Quarries o'er her Husband's Dust: Babel was opposite, (aëreal Pile!) And the tall Pyramids o'erlook'd their Nile: Here in mid Air the Giant Belus shone, There, (Wonder of Mankind!) the Rhodian Sun t. Labours of Artists, fam'd in Ages past, In Oils were painted, or in Metals cast:

^{*} Artemisia: She erected that Monument, which was esteem'd one of the Wonders of the World, for her Husband Mansolus.

⁺ The Colossus of Rhodes, it was destroy'd by the Saracens.

Here all unveil'd, to form one Venus*, stood,
Each fairest Model of the Grecian Blood:

Campaspe drew the ravish'd Master's Eyes †,
And first his Subject, now became his Prize.

Young Florence there a second Athens grew,
Painting reviv'd, and blest her Cimabue §,

Vinci, and Perugine, (my elder Care)

And matchless Raphael's youthful Form, were near.

Distant from these five beauteous Orders rose,
The Rich the Greek, the Plain the Tusean chose;
Their various Plans an hundred Sages wrought,
Whose Names, torn out by Envy, are forgot:

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^{*} It is a known Story of Praxiteles.

⁺ Apelles having drawn this favourite Mistress of Alexander, the King was so pleas'd with his Performance, that he presented him with the Lady.

^{1§} A Florentine of noble Descent, the first Restorer of Painting in the fourteenth Century.

But high above the rest, of Mien divine,

Stood the great Architect of Jesse's Line;

With upward Eyes, tow'rds Heav'n's exalted Vault,

Intent he look'd, and seem'd as wrap'd in Thought.

Full in the Midst, of burnish'd Gold my Throne
With storied Groups, and mystick Emblems shone;
There were display'd to Sight, my wondrous Birth,
The Giant's War, and all my Toils on Earth;
Her rival Loom ill-starr'd Arachne wove,
And own'd too late the Progeny of Jove;
My beauteous Form the Race of Cecrops warms,
And burning Troy repents my slighted Charms.
The Builder's Compasses and Tools were there,
And Chisels exquisite, and Pencils rare,
All that belongs to Art, and is Minerva's Care:

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Patrons of Sciences, with Olive crown'd,
On sumptuous Pedestals were plac'd around;
Here Cyrus stood, another Solomon *,
And Egypt's Ptolomy, and Philip's Son;
Augustus great in Empire as in Soul,
And Francis †, not the least in Learning's Roll.

In this Recess, to Eyes profane unknown,
I brav'd pale Envy on her Stygian Throne;
My Vot'ries, by a secret Path convey'd,
O'ercame the Eminence, and pierc'd the Shade;
Nought human else broke in upon my Rest,
Durst climb the Mountain, or the Grove insest.

^{*} Cyrus caus'd the Temple of Jerusalem to be rebuilt.

[†] King of France, the first of that Name, contemporary with Henry VII and VIII. a great Encourager of Learning, as well as a great Soldier; the famous Painter Leonard Vinci expir'd in his Arms.

But ah! of long Repose, how vain the Hope!

Against my Pow'r new hell-born Foes * rise up;

Discord and Anarchy lead up their Bands,

And Uproar stretches out his thousand Hands.

Why should I tell how Civil Fury rag'd,

And Cosmo's † Race successless Battles wag'd?

How impious Flames upon my Temple fed,

And Tuscan Treasures choak'd the Arno's Bed.

Single I try'd the Field against their Odds,

And summon'd to my Aid my Kindred Gods:

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^{*} The Florentines drove out the House of Medici, after the Death of Laurence, and seiz'd all their Estates, Palaces, &c. declaring them Tyrants: Several of the meanest among the People put themselves at the Head of the Mutiny, committing infinite Disorders, which lasted till the City was reduc'd, in Behalf of Pope Clement VII. by Charles V. after a most obstinate and bloody Siege.

⁺ Cosmo, called the Father of his Country; the first who pav'd the Way for the Sovereignty of the Medici; the great Laurence was his eldest Son: The present great Dukes are but a Collateral and Younger Line.

What could the Gods, when Fate's oppos'd Decree
Was past immutable on Arts and me?
Or what avail'd my Snake-displaying Shield,
To wave the aweful Crest, or pointed Lance to [weild?

Thou feeft, O Prince, the Marks of my Diffress,
This broken Weapon, and neglected Dress;
These Eyesthro' which my gushing Sorrows show'r,
And languid Cheek, whose Roses blush no more.
Uncertain where my wayward Steps to bend,
I seek in vain a Patron and a Friend;
And joyless, backward my Remembrance cast
On Ages of Delight, and Glories past.
Now by thy Knighthood, and the facred Round,
With which the Brows of Majesty are bound;
By that fair Mark of Dignity, the Star,
The Champion Saint, and winged Serpents War;

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From whence thou art, and by what wondrous Fate,

Led to this folitary Glade, relate;

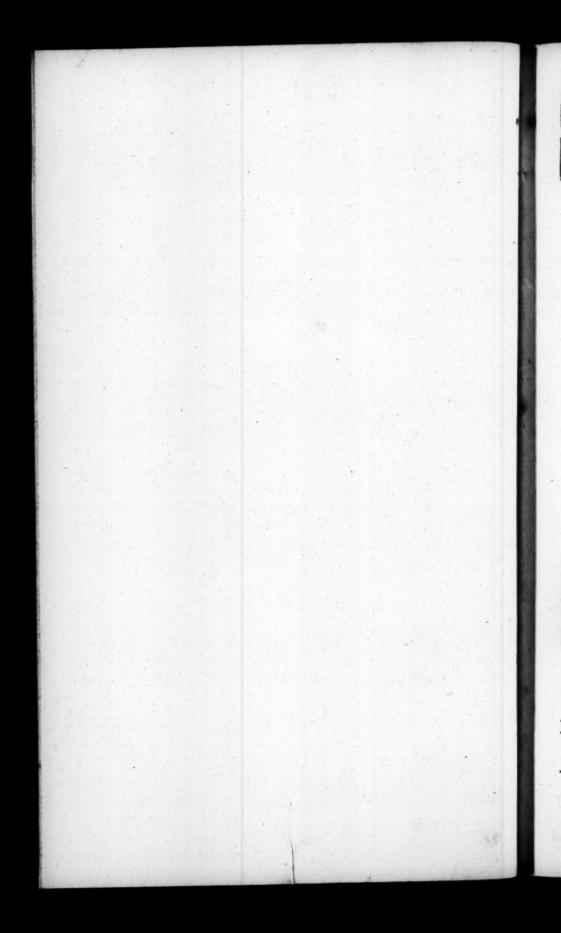
Then make Minerva Part'ner of thy Throne,

And fix her Empire, where Thou hold'st thy own.



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Henry





Henry and Minerva.

A

POEM.

CANTO II.



HE paus'd, and lowly feated by her [Side, With graceful Accent thus the Knight [reply'd; If haply Albion's Fame has reach'd [thy Ear,

(For Albion fure is worth Minerva's Care)

Know I derive from thence my Princely Birth,
And that rich Blood which flows the first on Earth.

High

High as Deucalion's Days my Sires ascend,

All born for Empire, and untaught to bend:

In me two mighty Stems their Branches join,

And * Woden's Race unites with Priam's Line.

Far as great Thetis' watry Realms are stretch'd,

Inspiring Dread, their mighty Names have reach'd:

These stemm'd the Fury of insulting Danes,

Or sought Renown in Syria's † Torrid Plains:

Of proud § Iberians, those the Legions broke,

Or taught vain Gallia to receive their Yoke.

Where-e'er our Crosses wanton in the Wind,

Success, Attendant sure, is still behind;

^{*} The Mercury, and greatest of all the Northern Gods; he was originally a Scythian, samous for the Magick Art, and lest the Banks of the Tanais upon the Approach of Pompey in the Mithridatic War, to settle upon the Baltick. Our Saxon Kings deriv'd from him in a direct Line.

⁺ This alludes to the Holy Wars, where Richard I. and Edward I. assisted in Person.

[§] When our Black Prince assisted Peter the Cruel, King of Castile, against Henry the Bastard.

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And Conquest, partial to her Albion's Kings, O'er their plum'd Bevers spreads her scarlet Wings.

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He faid; and strait to the Celestial Maid,
The wond'rous Cov'ring of his Lest display'd;
A nobler Orb than what, in Days of old,

Aneas bore, and Maro did unfold.

By Merlin's Art, with many a secret Charm,
Contriv'd at first for mighty Arthur's Arm;
(That Night fair Igren*, by the Sage deceiv'd,
The future Worthy in her Womb conceiv'd;)
From Him the Gift to Tudor's Race came down,
Sure Pledge of Sway, and Earnest of a Crown.

^{*} The Fable runs thus: Uter Pendragon falling desperately in Love with Igren or Igerna, (Dutchess of Cornwal) a Lady of great Chastity, got to the Possession of her in the Likeness of her Husband Gorlois, by the Artifice of the Enchanter Merlin. The great Arthur was the Fruit of this Stratagem.

On the wide Margin Brate's long Line appear'd,

(Heros in barb'rous Majesty rever'd;)

Bold Corineus † led his Phrygian Band,

And tumbled Earth-born Giants on the Sand;

'The dreadful Greenshields * shook his beamy Spear,

And grave Dunwallo † Justice made his Care.

'The Julian Eagles perch'd on Cantium's Coast,

Cassibelan & oppos'd his painted Host,

Here by the cunning Artizan were seign'd

Bonduca's ** Wars, and Female Trophies gain'd;

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[†] Corineus, from whom Cornwal deriv'd its Name: Brutus gave him that Province as a Reward for flaying a Giant in fingle Fight: They keep this Legend still in the West, near Plymouth, where is shewn the very Place of the Action, as they pretend.

^{*} Brute Greenshields: He conquer'd the King of Hainault. Vid. Spencer.

[†] Dunwallo, surnamed Mulmutius; who compos'd the famous Mulmutian Laws, which subsisted to the Saxon Times.

[§] Cassivelaunus, King of the Trinobantes, who were the People of Surrey, Hertfordshire, Essex, Middlesex, &c. at the Time of Casar's Invasion.

^{**} Bonduca, or Boadicea, Queen of the Iceni, (i.e. Suffolk and Norfolk) overthrew some of the Roman Generals, in Revenge for the Ravishment of her Daughters; she was at last subdu'd by Suetonius, Lieutenant to Claudius.

Fierce Caratach †† his moony Troops led on,
And Victory crown'd * Helen's Godlike Son.
There shone the Glories of the † Anglian Line,
The Heptarch Lords, and Rowen's Form & divine,
Th' enamour'd Briton quassf'd the satal Bowl,
And gaz'd away his Empire, and his Soul:
Battle ensu'd, and Warriors pale in Death,
With mangled Bodies strew th' ensanguin'd Heath.

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^{††} Caractacus, a rough and bold Briton, Kinsman to Boadicea, who was carried in triumph to Rome, V. Tacitus. His Character is admirably drawn by Beaumont and Fletcher, in the Tragedy call'd Bonduca.

^{*} Constantine the Great, whose Mother (Wife to the Emperor Conflantius Chlorus, and Sainted by the Romanists for the Discovery of the Holy Cross) was Daughter to Coel, a British Prince.

[†] The Angles were a People of Holstein, near the Elbe, and a Branch of the Saxon Stem: Hengist and Horsa, the two Brothers who first came over into Britain, were Princes of that Country, from whence England derives its Name.

Som, or Rowena, Niece to the above-mention'd Princes, was brought over by them as a Lure for old King Vortigern; to whom having drank at a Banquet they had prepar'd for him, he pledg'd the Cup, and fell in Love with her to that Degree, that he divorc'd his Christian Wife to marry this Pagan, giving Kent to Hengist. Upon this fatal Engagement, Vortimer his Son fought the Saxons in feveral Battles, as did his Successors, but ineffectually; for they gain'd more and more Ground, till they put an End to the antient British Monarchy, which expir'd with Cadwallader, and establish'd their Heptarchy.

Severe of Sway here Mercian Offa stood,

And impious Quenda †† stain'd with Infant Blood:

The Darling next, of Fortune and of Fame,

With Acclamations grac'd, young Egbert * came;

The long-divided States his Empire own;

And Lord of all confest, he fills the Throne.

Strong Edmund there I saw, and stern Ganute;

(The Severn † trembling at their sierce Dispute)

The equal Chiefs the doubtful Strife compose,

And Dane and Saxon are no longer Foes.

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^{††} Quenda was Daughter to Offa, (one of the greatest Heptarch Kings) and murder'd her Brother Kenelm (an Infant) that she might succeed to the Mercian Throne.

^{*} Egbert King of the West Saxons, who became afterwards first sole Monarch of England, thereby putting an End to the Heptarchy.

⁺ This famous Duel, between Canute and Edmund Ironfide, was fought in an Island of that River, in Sight of both Armies.

But, lo! a Norman Progeny appears!

And Albion's Crown from flaughter'd Harold tears;

Of Anjou's * Loins Plantagenet succeeds,

New Saxons reign, and Cœur de Lion † bleeds.

Henries and Edwards on the Shield were wrought,

Barons were quell'd, and adverse Roses sought:

The scatter'd Lillies were the Britons Sport,

Nor wanted Cressy there, nor Agincourt.

All these with curious Eye the Nymph beheld,
But inward rag'd, to see her Lore excell'd;
Wonder'd how Magick could improve on Art,
And Stygian Spells supply Minerva's Part.

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^{*} Henry II. Son to the Empress Mand, was of the House of Anjou, by the Father's Side, one of whom took the Name of Plantaginess, from the Branch of a Birch Tree he wore in his Cap, by Way of Humiliation, in a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

[†] Richard I. accidentally kill'd by an Arrow from the Walls of a Castle in Normandy, at his Return from the Holy Land.

The

The Monarch then, Thou feeft, O Heav'n-born [Fair, What the long Successors of Brutus were; How great they soar'd to their Paternal Skies, In War how dreadful, and in Peace how wise. But what avail a thousand Trophies won, And all our long Career of Glory run; If, sold to Rome in an ill-sated Hour *, We bow to Superstition's blinding Pow'r; Bend to the service Yoke we justly hate, And waste our Sinews to support her State?

Supine on Down mean while Her Vot'ries lie, And from their Cells my scepter'd Hand defy;

⁺ By King John, who made a Grant of England to the See of Rome.

Law, Reason, Right, their ill-got Power braves;
Monarchs their Tools, the People are their Slaves:
For them our curling Vines their Tendrils shoot;
For them the Peasant's ripen'd Glebe is cut;
Posses'd of half our Wealth, at more they grasp,
And the Bee's Labour feeds the Sluggard Wasp.

But while beneath their lazy Sway we floop,

Learning and Arts, thy beauteous Daughters, droop;

Still o'er our Heads the Gothic Mift impends,

And Life, begun in Night, in Darkness ends.

So when from th' Arab Sands, are wasted o'er

Black Locust Clouds to some ill-sated Shore;

Their noxious Myriads intercept the Sun,

And Men, at once, are blinded, and undone.

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In Youth's first Blossom of a Crown possest,
I heard thy Fame, and sought thee for my Guest;
I fought; but, ah! the anxious Search was vain;
For Ignorance proclaim'd thy ended Reign.
Whose beauteous Shores an hundred Cities grace,
With curious Eye the mighty Rhine I trace;
Roving from thence along the Danube's Flood,
In ev'ry verdant Field, and hoary Wood,
Thy Pow'r rever'd I call, and Altars raise,
Make Victims bleed, and fragrant Incense blaze.

A Nymph, at last, with Wonder struck, I see; Something that imitates, but is not thee; Approach'd with Awe, her Vandal Size I knew, And round dull Eye, that ap'd thy heav'nly Blue.

Her jovial Cheeks affect a Virgin Bloom,

Leipfick her Athens, Leyden is her Rome:

False Taste, I heard her nam'd, in Northern Climes,

Renown'd for Arts, and sung in Runick Rhimes.

Dispute is near her Throne, and Clamour loud,

And Argument that deasens all the Crowd:

Here Pedants, skill'd in metaphysick Rules,

Mistake for Sense the barbarous Cant of Schools;

Fat Criticks Flaws in Virgil's Muse descry,

And poring Fools teach clock-work Birds to sly.

I quit the foggy Soil, and seek the Shore

Where Tagus' Wave the golden Sand glides o'er;

Where his sam'd Pillars great Alcides six'd,

And mighty Madness with some Sense is mix'd:

Here Chivalry (strange Goddess) holds the Sway

Whom Errant Knights and love-sick Nymphsobey:

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An hectick Form, with meagre shallow Face, Grasping a Spear she rules the crazy Race; Her plumy Crest a Moon at Full fustains, To shew the Planet's Influence on her Brains: In a fair Palace built by magick Lore, (The Work, Fame fays, of some Enchanter Moor) On visionary Books she sits reclin'd, Revolving past Exploits within her Mind; Around stand Giant Forms, and all the Monster Kind.) Among her Vot'ries, nice Punctilio reigns, And empty Praise rewards the Hero's Pains: So strange a Sky the Sons of Tubal * share, Scarce fewer Lunaticks than Men are there.

^{*} Tubal-Cain; the Spanish Historians make him the Father of that People.

These to dissolve some virgin-binding Charm,
Against imaginary Dragons arm:
Those war with Bulls, (oh, Force of frantick Love!)
And half expire to gain a Lady's Glove:
Mad as the People are the Muse's Themes,
Orlando's Battles, and Urganda's Dreams,
And Damsels woo'd by Knights near gently-purl[ing Streams.]

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Still bufy'd in her Search, my active Mind

To Gallia now my wayward Steps inclin'd:

I strive t'o'ertake thee on the Khone's proud Bed,

Where old Lugdunum rears her tow'r-crown'd Head;

Pursue the sierce Garonne's impetuous Flood,

And length'ning Loire imbru'd in Moorish + Blood:

[†] Abderamen, King of the Moors, was defeated at Tours upon the Loire with 200,000 Men, by Charles Martel, in the Eighth Cintury.

Foremost in Fame, at last th'imperial Seine Invites my Eye to look for Learning's Queen: The Tempter Luxury there holds her State, And for th'Unwary lays the Syren Bait; Eternal Banquets on her Board appear, Eternal Musick fooths the ravish'd Ear; On fair Lutetia still her View is cast, Who binds her Slaves in gilded Fetters fast: Unzon'd she sits, and to entice her Guests, (Artful Enchantress!) spreads her naked Breasts, Whose wanton Globes in borrow'd Iv'ry clad, Run all her Crowd of purblind Suitors mad. Around her careless thrown, a loose Simarr, (Tyre's richest Dye) provokes the am'rous War; Nor wants Vermilion to increase Defire, Nor sparkling Gems that glow with Indian Fire.

There Lust reigns absolute, and knows no Bound,
And guilty Joys pursue their lawless Round;
Leud Tales are heard, and Reputations torn,
And Mothers their deluded Virgins mourn:
A thousand Snares for Innocence are laid,
The Ball, the Feast, the Masque, and Serenade;
The Philtre lurking in the golden Bowl,
And th'am'rous Glance that steals away the Soul.

Falsehood is here, and Coquetry, and Pride;
And Prud'ry sly, that turns the Head aside;
The laughing Many no Disturbance know,
Nor anxious Moment of intruding Woe;
Far off sits Sorrow with distracting Pain,
Nor Spleen the Nymph, nor Care molests the Swain.

Now almost from my Soul's great Purpose mov'd,
I saw, I heard, I revel'd, and I lov'd;
So tempting sweet the pois'nous Draught went down,
I half forgot my Albion and my Crown;
For baleful Pleasure is like Lethe's Wave,
And buries Thought in dark Oblivion's Grave,

But lo! as leaden Sleep's nocturnal Pow'r

Had lull'd my Senses one distinguish'd Hour,

All in the spotless Ermin's Pomp array'd,

Stood by my filent Couch a Royal Shade;

I knew the Saxon Alfred's awful Form,

And Eyes with Wisdom's facred Sparkles warm;

A pearly Wreath shone round his Snow-white Head;

He wav'd his Silver Wand, and thus he said;

O born of Anjou's, and of Tudor's Line,

In whom the Glories of both Roses shine;

If Honour, Wealth, and Fame be worth thy Care, To my fage Precepts lend a filial Ear; Fly hence, ere yet the Ill, too ftrong for Cure, Gives up thy Virtue to the Circe's Lure; Nor meanly quench that noble Spark of Praise Which in thy gen'rous Breaft begun to blaze: Spread for th'inglorious Throng, the filken Toil Licks up the Drofs and Scum of ev'ry Soil; And shall those Heads which Nations have in Trust, Herd with the Populace, and mix with Duft? From these soft Realms, lo! where the bold & Valois Thro' Alpine Snows (ambitious Monarch) flies; Pursues Renown on red * Insubrian Plains, Nor floops to wear his own Lutetia's Chains.

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[§] Francis I.

^{*} That part of Lombardy which now takes in the Milaneze, was anciently called Infubria: It was here many bloody Battles were tought during that cruel War between Charles V. and Francis; particularly that famous one of Pavia, in which the latter was taken Prifoner, and the Flower of the French Nobility perish'd.

Thy mighty Sire in Arms as Wisdom great Built his high Name on Tyranny's Defeat, Appeas'd the Manes of + Kings at Bofworth's Field, And gave new Luftre to the Tudor-Shield. In Doom's eternal Page a noble Toil Is thine (O Saviour of thy Albion's Isle!) To drive out Monkish Sloth, fair Learning's Bane, Pest of the Soil, and Scandal of thy Reign. Patron of Arts, on Isis' Silver Bed In vain I rais'd my Rhedicina's & Head; In vain with Wealth endow'd her meagre Bands; And to give Gown's-men Learning, gave them Lands: Mitres and Cowls the glorious Scheme controul, And Springs of Sciences with Mud run foul.

⁺ Of Henry VI. and Edward V. who had been murther'd by Richard Duke of Glocester, to pave his Way to the Throne.

[&]amp; Onford, call'd in Saxon, Rhydichin.

Behold Minerva, yet in Beauty's Bloom, (Whom Athens once ador'd, and mightier Rome;) Where fam'd Eridanus cuts out his Way, Forlorn, abandon'd, shuns the Face of Day; Thy Knightly Aid to the fair Mourner give, And in thy own Augusta bid her live: Scar'd by her radiant Form, and Gorgon Shield, I fee the bald-pate Legions quit the Field: Again her Stygian Cell pale Envy feeks, And Superstition her vain Crosier breaks: This War for Henry was referv'd by Fate, And Henry's Work Eliza shall compleat. He ceas'd, and vanish'd: --- joyful I obey, Have fought, have found; & call thee forth to Sway: Scorn not the Sword for facred Learning drawn, And give our Albion to falute thy Dawn.

But now a Vapour gliding thro' the Air,

From Henry's Eye conceal'd the shrowded Fair;

So swift it glanc'd, that scarce with speedier Pace,

Jove's forked Light'ning cleaves th'æthereal Space.

As one by Necromantick Chains held fast,

Fix'd to the Ground, a while he stood aghast,

'Till soon again disclos'd, her liquid Veil

The Goddess broke, and shone in burnish'd Mail.

Snaky Medusa on her Shield was seign'd,

Her Ostrich Plume the mystick Sphinx * sustain'd

The golden Ægid† her fair Bosom grac'd,

Her buskin'd Leg a Round of Gems embrac'd.

^{*} The Owl is commonly Minerva's Crest upon Antiques; but the Sphinx is likewise frequently seen, and sounds much better, especially in Poetry.

⁺ It was the Gorgon's Head which fasten'd her Mantle on her Breast. Roman Emperors and Heroes are often represented with it, on Busts, Medals, &c.

So look'd she on the Day, when, struck with Dread, Thro' Heav'n's wide Waste, the routed Titans sled; Or when on Xanthus' Shore, (as sings the Bard), In thy great Cause, victorious Greece, she warr'd. Snatch'd by a Pow'r unseen, the wond'ring Knight Soars by her Side into the Realms of Light; Born on a purple Cloud they cut the Sky, And Jove auspicious thunders from on high.



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Henry and Minerva.

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POEM.

CANTO III.



EAR cold Mæotis' weed-engend'ring
[Wave,
Eternal Fogs hang noisome o'er a Cave

Where Night-born Ignorance, wide[fwaying Queen,
And Bat-wing'd Sloth, Her unambitious Twin,
Stretch'd on Stymphatian Feathers, doze and dream,
And banish from their Eyes the Solar Beam;

Near

Near them stands grinning Folly, vain Conceit,
And powder'd Levity with nimble Feet;
Brazen Assurance in Ierne bred,
And Pedantry on endless Volumes sed.
Crowds fill the various Chambers of the Grott,
Whose Names, as soon as mention'd, are forgot;
Indians who take mere Nature for their Guide,
Russians to Bears, and French to Apes ally'd;
Gamesters and Fops, and Friars black and white;
These play, those dance; some sleep, & others write.

There cank'ring Rust, or envious Flames consume

Athenian Wisdom, and the Wit of Rome;

These pluck the Laurel from old Homer's Head,

And, Murd'rers of his Sense, translate him dead;

Those aim the Pick-ax at some noble Bust,

Or turn admired Statues into Dust;

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A Venus * here, there a Laocoon falls;

And Apellean Strokes are torn from Walls:

Fortune's first Cruelty Augustus tries,

And more than one Macenas mangled lies.

But eminently plac'd, mad Nero smiles,

Joyful as when he saw Rome's blazing Piles.

Lewd Thais 1 the destructive Flambeau throws,

Vain of her Charms, and her great Captive shews.

His heavy Brow illit'rate Mummius ** rears,

And Midas grave pricks up his Ass's Ears;

The Tyrant Savage, and the Fool unread,

All Foes to Arts, are there in dusky Lead.

^{*} The Venus of Medici, at Florence, and the Laocoon of the Belvedere in Rome, are two of the most admir'd Figures of Antiquity.

⁴ A famous Greek Curtezan; she persuaded Alexander, in one of his drunken Fits, to set Persepolis on fire.

^{**} Mummius, the Roman General that took Corinth; having loaded a Vessel with the noblest Pieces of Grecian Sculpture, he was so very stupid, that he bad the Sailors, at their Peril, take Care how they broke them; for if they did, they should be oblig'd to buy new ones in their room.

Bavius is prais'd, Longinus is reprov'd;

And Foes to Raphael are by † Hemskirk mov'd;

B---rd leads the captive Angelo along,

And Vandal Bently mends th' Horatian Song.

Sleek Superstition hither now repairs,

Mumbling between her Teeth eternal Pray'rs,

In Purple cloath'd, the bowing Throng she scorns,

A three-pil'd Crown her sullen Brow adorns.

To Her the Monster-breeding Nile gave Birth,
And Memphis was her first Abode on Earth;
By her white Robe, and holy Fillets known,
She taught the Virtues there of Wood and Stone;
Impress'd an Awe on Forms of Dogs and Apes,
And gave a thousand Gods a thousand Shapes:

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[†] A famous Dutch Painter of Drolls and Grotesques.

Thence, by Degrees, extending East and West,

Spread o'er the ample Ball th' infectious Pest;

Assign'd each doubtful Oracle a Name,

And fed in Vesta's Dome th' eternal Flame.

By her inspir'd the hoary Druid spoke,

Rever'd by Nations from his Moss-grown Oak;

And with presaging Eye, the laurel'd Seer

Read Fates of Empires in the bleeding Steer.

Th' Enthusiast Scot her noisy Impulse feels;

She hangs the half-choak'd Brachman & by the Heels;

Girds bare-foot Knaves with inosfensive Ropes,

And governs Worlds by Mustis and by Popes.

Great is the Cause, O kindred Pow'rs, she said, From which, alarm'd, I leave my downy Bed;

[§] It is the Name of a Sect of *Indian* Philosophers and Priests, who superstitiously mortify themselves in this manner, and many other as extravagant Penances.

When you are threaten'd, shall your old Ally Sunk on foft Plumes the Calm of Peace enjoy? See our Recovering Foe invade your Throne, And on your ruin'd State rebuild her own? Behold! the Goddess, who so late our Scorn, On Padus' Banks fate helpless and forlorn; In radiant Steel, offensive to my Eye, With Henry for her Guide ascends the Sky; Tow'rds Britain's Isle I saw them wing their Way, (Britain, our old Hereditary Sway;) Where Monks, firm Enemies to Truth and Light, For twice five Ages have maintain'd our Right. If still our Destinies move Hand in Hand, And by alternate Fates we fall or fland: If never yet disjoin'd, our Social Crowns Baleful to Arts, have bray'd Minerva's Frowns;

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Rife, arm, let each her thick-skull'd Hoft prepare,
And wave her dusky Banner in the Air;
The ready Vatican its Aid will lend,
And ev'ry Polar Power is our Friend:
The Van be mine and my fat Clergy's Care,
Be you with blind Lay-Troops the Seconds of the
[War.

She paus'd; a Murmur of Applause went round,
And † Caucasus re-eccho'd back the Sound;
So loud, so shrill the Noise; so far it spread,
Owls op'd their Eyes, and frighted Batts fell dead.
At last dread Ignorance, with awful Nod,
Rose up as lab'ring with some inward God;
Silenc'd the Multitude, and thus broke forth,
Conscious of Empire, and superior Worth.

⁺ An huge Ridge of Mountains in Tartary.

O fure Supporter of our gloomy Throne,
Whose Hate to Arts, and Zeal for Us is known;
Great by myself, by Thee o'er all I reign,
Nor knows my Sway a Limit but the Main;
By thee Minerva was at length thrown out,
Where solemn Pontiss awe the Latian Rout;
My Western Islands, and my Gaul were won,
And Spain, proud Neighbour of the Setting Sun.

If real Fears, within thy anxious Breaft,
No vain imaginary Ills fuggest;
And with recruited Strength the Nymph invades
The Realms we screen with patrimonial Shades;
Against her Charms let all our Force unite,
And ev'ry muster'd Idiot try the Fight.

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What tho' the beauteous Daughter of the Sky

Darts killing Day from each Coeleftial Eye;

What tho' her dreaded Gorgon she expands,

And calls forth all her lean and hungry Bands?

So thick clings round us Night's Cimmerian Veil,

Secure we trust th'impenetrable Mail.

Myself behind this ample Shield of Lead,

Will to the Field my daring Squadrons head;

And with Maternal Panoply arm'd o'er,

Add to my former Wreaths one Poppy more.

By me Persepolis 4 and Rome * were fir'd,

And Learning's Pharian + Stores in Flames expir'd;

⁴ The Capital of Persia, of which there are yet considerable Remains.

^{*} Rome was confum'd feveral Times; but this more particularly points at Nero's Conflagration.

[†] The Alexandrian Library in Egypt.

On Dido's Tow'rs § I tos'd the fatal Brand,
And bury'd Babylon's proud Walls in Sand;
To the stern Ottoman Byzantium gave,
And fair Palmyra * made the Arabs' Slave.

I fir'd with Rage and Lust † Eudosia's Breast,
When o'er the Main she call'd her barb'rous Guest;
Led on the pop'lous North's destructive Sons,
And modern Monks supply'd to antient Huns.

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She said; and marshal'd streight in wide Array The Ranks were seen impatient of the Fray; Captains and Soldiers to their Posts repair'd, Flags were display'd, and Minstrelsy was heard:

[§] Carthage, burnt to the Ground in the last Punick War by the second Africanus; with all its Inhabitants.

^{*} A vast City at the Foot of Mount Libanus, of which there are magnificent Remains to this Day: It was the Residence of the samous Zenobia, in Aurelian's Time.

[†] Widow to Valentinian III. murder'd by Maximus; That Usurper having forc'd her to his Bed, she in Revenge invited over the Vandal Genseric from Africa, who carried her away with him, and all the richest Spoils of Rome.

When

When fudden, lo! before the motley Troop A toothless Sybil's haggard Form rose up; Dreadful her Eyes with Pythian Sparkles shone, And cast a Glare that froze the Looker-on. As Hinds unarm'd who meet the lurking Snake Bound from the deadly Spot, and shun the Brake; Or shrieking Nymphs flit from the haunted Glade, Where the pale Moon-light shews the glimmering Wing'd with like Fear each Warrior from the Crone Shudd'ring recoil'd, and felt a Dread unknown; Scarce could the Queens themselves, (of Valour Th' Avernian Beldam's blood-shot Balls abide; Yet in their mighty Minds collected flood, And strove to animate the dastard Crowd. The Panick foon difpell'd with one Affent, All turn, and press to see the great Event:

Then she —— Attend, ye Foes to facred Light, Of Shades Inhabitants, and Spawn of Night:

Give o'er the rash advent'rous Scheme of War,
Vain Force you raise, and Armies vain prepare:
'The great, the destin'd Hour, at length is come,
When Britain must revolt from You and Rome;
Behold, the ready Arts are on the Wing,
And each glad Science hails her Patron † King;
Presaging Steeples backward ring their Bells,
And fat Conventuals tremble in their Cells;
Nor soothing Eloquence, nor Threat avails;
Ev'n Wolsey's Tongue, and Clement's & Thunder fails.
And will you then expose this valiant Troop
To save one Limb, which Fate decrees to lop?

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⁺ Henry VIII.

[§] Clement VIII. he never would consent to Henry's Divorce from Queen Katherine, which oblig'd the King to shake off his Supremacy.

Lead forth your Numbers, and provoke the Fight Against the Odds of Learning, Truth, and Light? Not so, ye Pow'rs! — but still on Down supine, Of your vast State that sever'd Spot resign:

Secure of Continents so large, so fair!

One petty Island is not worth your Care.

Lo; where the Sophy and Mogul are own'd,
These but as your Vicegerents sit enthron'd:
Your dread Commands (near Kinsman* to the Gods)
The Turk in his Seraglio hears, and nods:
Ev'n whence Confucius † banish'd once your Sway,
Extended China shuts out Learning's Ray.
See where the Tanais, and Volga roll,
And salse Auroras glimmer near the Pole;

^{*} The Ottoman Emperors have many fulfome and ridiculous Titles of this kind.

[†] Confucius, the great Law-giver and Philosopher of China two thousand Years ago.

Where frozen Seas ne'er felt a genial Thaw,

Scythia's bleak Shores obey your boundless Law;

Your firm Helvetian Friends what need I name;

And Ister's Banks, your everlasting Claim?

Where'er the Alcoran its Opiat spreads,

Or radiant Miters blaze on cloudy Heads,

From North to South the out-stretch'd Ball's your [own,
The Robe, the Cowl; the Pulpit, and the Throne.

But, ah! methinks in dark Futurity

A new emerging British Isle I see!

In Cloaks and Bands up springs a Mushroom Race,

Vassals of Ignorance and Babes of Grace:

Before them bleeding Royalty lies low,

And Learning hides her venerable Brow;

Seraphick Nonsense in the Temples roars,

And Calvin bellows from his Leman's & Shores.

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[§] The Lake of Geneva; in old Authors, Lemanus.

Committees grave, and Synods rule the Land, Altars are stripp'd, and Gore imbrues the Sand. How'rd's antient Marbles * (Afa's noble Spoils) Great Michel's Images, and Urbin's Oils, (Pride of thy Charles's Domes, Imperial + Thames,) Or fall by Hammers, or confume in Flames. Ah! that the dear, destructive Scene might last! But o'er my Eyes a sudden Veil is cast; More is forbid; my Sand prefix'd is run, And Pluto calls me back to Acheron. She spoke, and mix'd with Air; — the Troops Idisband, And each glad Warrior takes his former Stand; The Queens their interrupted Sleep renew, The Chiefs around their wonted Sports pursue:

^{*} The Arundel Marbles, brought from Smyrna and other Parts of the Levant, by that noble Earl.

⁺ Great part of this inestimable Collection stood in Whitehall and Somerset Gardens, before the Rebellion; and at that Time were broke to Pieces and thrown into the River; as the most Curious Paintings of the Crown, &c. were burnt by the Mob.

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[70]

The Cave re-ecchoes with the Sybil's praise,

And jarring Chords mix inharmonious Lays.

So when the Spirits war in human Veins,

And scarce its fev'rish Tide the Heart contains;

With friendly Draughts if some Galenick Sage

Allays th'intestine Vulcan's spreading Rage,

The vital Juices own his wond'rous Pow'r

And run thro' Life's Mæanders as before.



Henry



Henry and Minerva.

A

POEM.

CANTO IV.



UT Superstition, fill'd with anxious
[Thought,
Soars on the Wing, and leaves the
[darksome Vault;
Speeds to unfold the dire Decrees of
[Fate,

And fince she cannot save, console her State.

Soon wafted thro' the wide Expanse of Air
To the known Land, her first, her fay'rite Care;

On

On equal Pinions pois'd, she curbs her Flight, And with old Scenes of Glory feasts her Sight:

First, she survey'd the memorable Spot

(In Rome's red Annals ne'er to be forgot)

Where Richard's Successor,* but Peter's Slave

'The Realms of Brute to haughty Pontiss gave;

(Laugh'd pamper'd Prelates, laugh'd the bald-pate
[Crowd,
And shirtless Legions sang their Joy aloud,)

She saw the Ground which † holy Dunstan trod,
She saw where Emma swalk'd o'er Flames unshod:
Here to the penal Scourge great Henry || stoop'd,

'There burning Heresy with Wickliss* droop'd!

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^{*} King John; this Donation has been mention'd in Canto I.

⁺ The famous Saint, and Archbishop of Canterbury, contemporary with Ethelred, &c.

[§] Mother to Edward the Confessor; to clear herself from the Imputation of Adultery, she underwent the superstitious Tryal of the Ordeal Law, which was to walk bare-foot over red-hot Plough Shares.

[#] H. II. submitted to this severe Penance to attone for the Murther of Tho. Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury.

^{**} Wickliff was the first who pav'd the Way for the Reformation in the XIVth Century; and was burnt for an Heretick.

From thence she turn'd her Eye to where on Thrones Kings fate but Deputies to miter'd Drones; If these ordain'd, retir'd to peaceful Shades, Wore Palmer's Weeds, or undertook Croifades. To other Sights she pass'd, and now beheld Where scarce Lud's Walls the long Processions held; The shining Flamens stalk on two by two; And Wolfey (upftart Pageant!) crowns the Shew. Lo! where the Purple Meteor moves along, And from his Princely Steed furveys the Throng! Near his proud Stirrup menial Knights attend, Peers watch his Nod,* and as he looks they bend: Scarce with more Pomp, thro' Lanes of proftrate Knees, His Lateran + Rome's new-made Sov'reign fees.

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^{*} The Insolence of Wolsey is described at large by Historians. In his French Embassy he was attended by Earls, and other great Noblemen, some of whom always held the Bason for him to wash.

[†] The new Popes, soon after their Promotion, go in Cavalcade to take Possession of the Church St. John Lateran.

Or their vain Heads elated Muftis shew
While servile Turbants hide the Ground below.

With Scenes like these the Matron sooth'd her [Pain, Careless of Fate, and her expiring Reign;

A while she sooth'd; but soon new Sorrows rose,

Thro' either Eye the gushing Torrent slows;

And Pleasures past add Weight to sure impending [Woes.]

Nigh where shone Glasson's venerable Pile,
And bare-foot Pilgrims kiss'd the § Sacred Soil;
Within the secret Covert of a Wood,
The Work of Gothic Hands, her Palace stood.

Here in rude Oils, with barb'rous Art exprest, Were all her Labours seen from East to West;

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[§] Joseph of Arimathea is said to have first preach'd the Gospel at this Place to the Pagan Britons; and to have planted there the samous Thorn out of our Saviour's Crown.

Each Tale she introduc'd, each God she made,
The Lybian Ammon, || and Dodona's Shade;
Ill-Starr'd Osiris * aw'd his Pharian Crowd,
The Realms of Cyrus to their Mithras † bow'd;
Each mystick Form which Asia's Sons rever'd,
With its peculiar Attribute appear'd;
The fishy & Dagon, and \$\dagger Assume Asia's mourn'd;
And Syrian Dames their lov'd ** Adonis mourn'd;

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[|] Two of the most famous Oracles of Heathen Times, both Sacred to Jupiter; the former in Africa, and the latter in Greece.

^{*} King of Egypt, Husband to Isis, by whom he had Orus: He extended his Conquests as far as Spain; and was murther'd by the Monster Typhon. The Ægyptians call'd him Apis after his Death, and worshipp'd him in the Shape of a white Ox.

[†] The Sun of the Persians; whom they represented sometimes under the Form of a Serpent, and sometimes as a Man sitting upon a Bull, and cutting his Threat.

[§] The God of the Philistines and Syrians, represented with his nether Parts like a Fish.

⁴ The Diana of the Phænicians.

^{**} The Syrian Women had a folemn Festival every Year in Commemoration of Adonis, whose Death they lamented, calling him Thammus.

Great Berecynthia's Priests, in Gore imbru'd,

For † Atys lost their cruel Rites pursu'd;

Her Numa here th' Egerian Nymph inspir'd,

And Mecca's Prophet by his Dove was fir'd;

§ Hali was near; the || Tyanean Sage;

And Woden, fear'd where Northern Tempests rage;

And grisly Dæmons whom the Ganges dreads,

In Siam's Pagods rear'd their thousand Heads.

But on the adverse Wall's extended Line
Of Western Bigotry the Triumphs shine;
Grave Papal Heads their high Tiaras rear,
And rubrick Saints adorn the Roman Year:

[†] The Priests of Cybele, call'd Galli, Archigalli, or Agyrta; us'd, in their Festivals to the Memory of her Favourite Atys, to cut and slash themselves in a terrible manner.

[§] Hali, the Prophet of the Persians, as Mahomet is of the Turks.

Apollonius Tianeus, whose Life Philostratus has writ, contemporary to Antoninus Pius. Some of the Heathens believ'd him a God.

Religious Flames the holy Champions warm,

Great Godfrey leads, the * Hermit founds th'Alarm.

Indies are lavish'd at Loreto's Shrine,

And bare-foot Monarchs trudge to Palestine.

The Goddess thence † her hungry Millions feeds,

And stocks Mankind with Agnus's and Beads;

Of Relicks there the venal Stores does keep,

And waking still herself, lulls all to sleep.

This Labour ended, here she lit at length,
Assum'd her Throne, and rally'd all her Strength:
Vain Effort! a superior Power she feels,
And through her Heart presaging Terror steals.

Hither forthwith her fummon'd Sons repair, Who bask in Ease, and know the Sweets of Pray'r,

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^{*} The Hermit Peter, who by his Preaching first excited the European Princes to the Holy War.

⁺ From Loreto.

In Silk, in Serge, in Rochets, and in Cowls,
Who feaft like Epicures, or doze like Owls.
To them the Queen ---- O Race I long have fed,
And blefs'd with double Portion of my Lead;
True to my Caufe, to Arts and Learning blind;
Fate has your Doom irrevocable fign'd!
Your Shrines and Roods must now forfaken stand,
Or fall beneath some facrilegious Hand.
No more shall Pilgrims press to Becket's Head,
Or creep to wonder-working thinisted;
Farewell to Edmund's and to Edward's Bones,
That call'dtheir Princely Worshippers from Thrones,

[†] Winifred, a British Virgin Saint and Martyr; whose Well was celebrated for Cures; and is still famous in Wales.

[§] S. Edmund, King of the East Saxons, who was murther'd by the Danes at that Place which from him is call'd St. Edmunds-bury: There was a famous Abby before the Reformation; now in Ruins.

[|] St. Edward, King of England, furnamed the Confessor; whose Relicks in Westminster Abbey were much resorted to in Popish Times.

To Relicks fabulous, to Legends old,

And Tales that drain'd the dim Believer's Gold.

But late for Safety to these Realms I ran,

Attack'd by * Charles within my Vatican;

Henry my greater Foe now drives me hence,

Erasmus writes me out, and Priests talk Sense.

Farther and farther yet my View I stretch
To Scenes of Woe beyond your human Reach:
Methinks I see in Fate's inverted Urn,
To Stores of Arts your Resectories turn,
And Newton's Systems in those Schools embrac'd,
From which dull Scotists Truth and Reason chac'd.
Long promis'd to Mankind, of Tudor's Race
Behold! the first in Fame, the last in Place,

^{*} In the Year 1526. Charles V. besieg'd Clement VIII. in the Castle of St. Angelo; where he held him Prisoner, in a manner, a long Time; after the taking of Rome by the Constable of Bourbon.

Eliza, Terror of the Roman See,

(Name ever curs'd by Ignorance and me!)

Her Maiden Throne what Crowds of Worthies

[guard,
What Wisdom shines, what Eloquence is heard!

Sidney her Soldier, Spencer is her Bard!

Vandike and Rubens, Glories of the North,

(Thro' Belgian Fogs like Beams of Light shot

[forth)
To fair Augusta Graces new impart,

And sage Inigo joins Vitruvian Art.

Rifing and rifing still in Time's long Maze,

I see th' Usurper Learning spread her Rays;

How'rd with a Soul extensive as his Stores,

Far Eastward roves beyond th' Ionian Shores;

(Studious expiring Sciences to save,)

And antient Greece revives on * Isis' Wave.

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^{*} The famous Inscriptions given by the great Earl of Arundel to the University of Oxford, known by the Name of the Arundelian Marbles, which Selden and Prideaux have so learnedly commented upon: These were a Part of that Nobleman's vast Collection.

Lo! where fam'd Wilton * Sarum's Plain o'erlooks,

And cloifter'd Dames now dream by murm'ring

[Brooks,

Herbert, great Offspring of a Race renown'd,

Shall spread all Latium on the Classic Ground.

More yet I see, who sung in future Lays

Shall grace a Stuart's, or a Nassau's Days;

Dorset and Hallisax, (Apollo's Care)

And Lansdown skill'd to sooth the ravish'd Ear:

And Cav'ndish glorious in Minerva's Fane

Reslects new Lustre on a Brunswick's Reign.

But ah! the Vision shifts; and now behold
Our Iron Age, succeeded by the Gold;
From Tagus' Shores a dawning Light I spy,
And great Ignatius gilds th' Hesperian † Sky!

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^{*} It was formerly an House of Augustinian Nuns.

[†] St. Ignatius Loyola; Father of the Jesuits; and who had been a Soldier under Charles V. he began to grow in Repute for Sanctity in the XVIth. Century.

To him ev'n Dominic and Francis bend,

Kings are his Slaves, the Fisherman's his Friend.

Hail well-tim'd Saint! I see thy growing Sway

Shut in the rising and the setting Day:

Peking and Nanking & blinder than before,

Receive new Idols from || thy boundless Store:

Not distant Cusco * from thy Chain is free,

And Cortez † conquers new-found Worlds for Thee

More Comfort yet! Io, from the glacial Zone

Christina & comes! and leaves her Arctick Throne:

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[§] The Two famous Capitals of China.

The Jesuit Missionaries in that Part of the World have allow'd a most scandalous Liberty to their new Converts, and suffer'd them to mix the Worship of Christ with that of Confucius.

^{*} The Capital of Peru; the Jesuits have vast Tracts in America; particularly all the Paraguay.

[†] Ferdinand Cortez, who reduc'd Mexico to the Obedience of the Spaniards in the XVIth Century.

^{§§} Daughter to the Great Gustavus King of Sweden; she renounc'd the Protestant Religion, with her Crown, towards the End of the last Century, and retir'd to Rome, where she died.

Religious Zeal inflames her convert Breaft,

And Rome receives one welcome || Vandal Gueft!

An hundred charming Scenes my ravish'd Eye

Unfolds, but soon as born the Phantoms dye.

I see Maria's Fires, and Philip's Fleet,*

A Nassau slain, † a Palatine's Defeat, §

Ravilliac's Dagger plung'd in Bourbon's Gore, |||||

And Fawks employs the Nitre's Stygian Pow'r

Oh! may Success upon each Labour wait;

Success, from these dim Eyes conceal'd by Fate.

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[|] The Swedish Kings style themselves also, Kings of the Goths and Vandals.

^{*} The Spanish Armada, sent by Philip II. to invade England, upon the Shores of which it was wholly destroy'd, partly by bad Weather, and partly by the Conduct of Drake, and other of Queen Elizabeth's Admirals.

⁺ William I. Prince of Orange, Deliverer of the Netherlands; he was murther'd at Delft by a Villain employ'd by the Jesuits.

[§] Frederick, the unfortunate King of Bohemia, defeated at Prague by the Imperialists, Son-in-law to King James I.

Henry IV. of France, murther'd (as is supposed) at the Instigation of the Jesuits, as being suspected too partial to the Protestants.

Now hafte, my Sons, lead off your num'rous Bands
To the kind Shelter of our Social Lands,
Ere the proud Laity your Realms invades,
And hoftile Feet prophane your Sacred Shades.
Far hence to where the Tiber rolls I fly,
(The great Metropolis of Bigotry)
Already on your Domes the Ruin falls,
My Empire ceases, and the Conclave calls.

She said, and vanish'd; for to Sight display'd Now hover'd in Mid-air the blue-ey'd Maid, Her Gorgon Shield no adverse Eye can stand; She grasps Paternal Thunder in her Hand. Beside her Henry shakes his dreaded Lance; And the sair Arts, a joyous Throng, advance.

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Despair below works various on the Crowd. In some 'tis filent Grief, in some 'tis loud; Here shrill Anathemas the Heavens rend. There deep-mouth'd Groans from lab'ring Lungs These their lost Acres, those their Loves deplore, For Chapels many grieve, for Cellars more: They dread to fly, yet dare not wait the Foe, To flay is Ruin, and 'tis Death to go. As when the Flame, which midnight Shrieks unfold, On some rich Miser's sumptuous Roof takes hold; Nor this, nor that Way dares the Caitiff turn, Here he is fure to lofe, and there to burn; Between his Gold divided, and his Life, Doubtful he stands, 'till Death decides the Strife.

Mean while the Fabrick's pond'rous Mass gives [way, And bursting Walls let in unusual Day:

The tott'ring Dome Minerva's Arm confess'd,

The many fall beneath its Weight oppress'd;

Earth gapes, black smoth'ring Clouds of Smoak
[arise,
And Bolts his dreadful thro' the red'ning Skies;

Palace and Men all sink within the Clest,

A noisom, soul, Avernian Stench is left.

But lo! a sudden Sun, with forcive Beam,
Dispels the Night, and shews the Heav'n-born Dame;
With vary'd Form she now on Earth is seen,
And stripp'd of all her Terror, smiles serene;
As once in Athens or in Rome, her Throne
Beauteous she fill'd, and in Byzance was known.

Beneath her Seat, obedient to the Hand

A Snow-white Arab spurns the yellow Sand;

And conscious of the Weight his Back sustains,

Bounding like Æthon, † champs the golden Reins.

⁺ One of the Horses of the Sun.

Such Rubens his divine * Maria drew, Her Port as noble, and as fair her Hue.

The Dryads now that haunt Britannia's Woods, And hoary Pow'rs that guide Her thousand Floods, Iss, (the chief) renown'd for pleasing Strains, With Silver Cam that laves Icenian & Plains, All greet the Victor Queen with Olive crown'd; Augusta joyous ecchoes back the Sound.

Where Henry rules, Jove's Daughter joyntly sways, And Arts and Learning see new Halcyon Days.

^{*} Mary of Medici, as she is represented in one of the Paintings of the Luxemburg Gallery.

[§] The Iceni were the People of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.

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